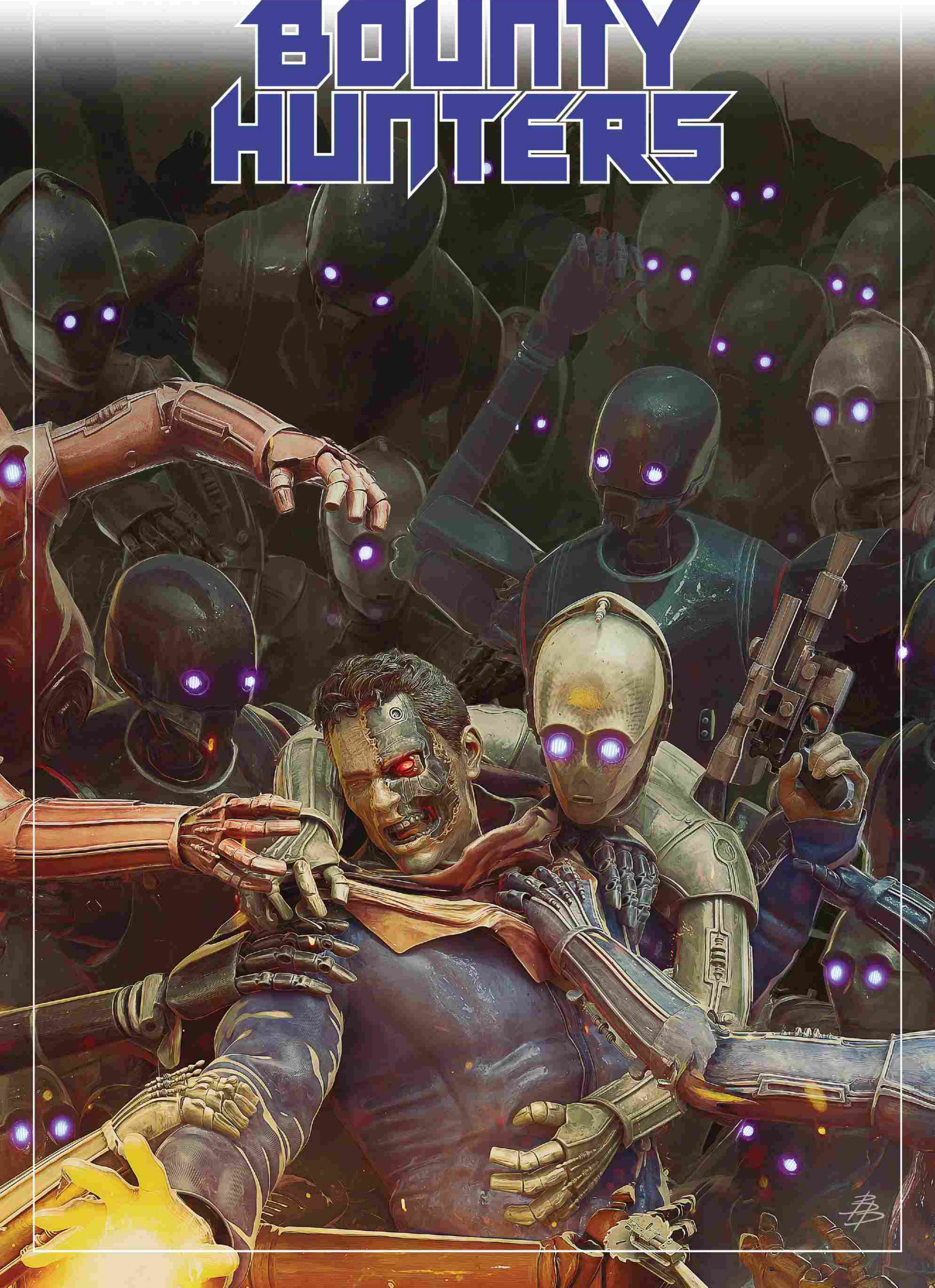


MARVEL

SACKS • TINTO • PRIANTO

41

—STAR WARS—
DARK DROIDS
**BOUNTY
HUNTERS**



T'onga has been betrayed by her crew!

Left for dead with Zuckuss, the bounty hunter has found herself face-to-face with Valance--but all traces of her longtime crewmate's mind have been wiped away.

Instead, the cyborg has been remade into a weapon of the droid scourge that could threaten the entire galaxy... starting with his former friends....

STAR WARS BOUNTY HUNTERS

THE PATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS, PART 5

ETHAN SACKS
WRITER

DAVIDE TINTO
ARTIST

ARIF PRIANTO
COLOR ARTIST

VC's TRAVIS LANHAM
LETTERER

BJÖRN BAREND COVER ARTIST
DUSTIN NGUYEN VARIANT COVER ARTIST

**NICK
RUSSELL**
PRODUCTION DESIGN

**MIKEY J.
BASSO**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

**DANNY
KHAZEM**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**MARK
PANICCIA**
EDITOR

**C.B.
CEBULSKI**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

FOR LUCASFILM:

ROBERT SIMPSON
SENIOR EDITOR

GRACE ORRISS
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MICHAEL SIGLAIN
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

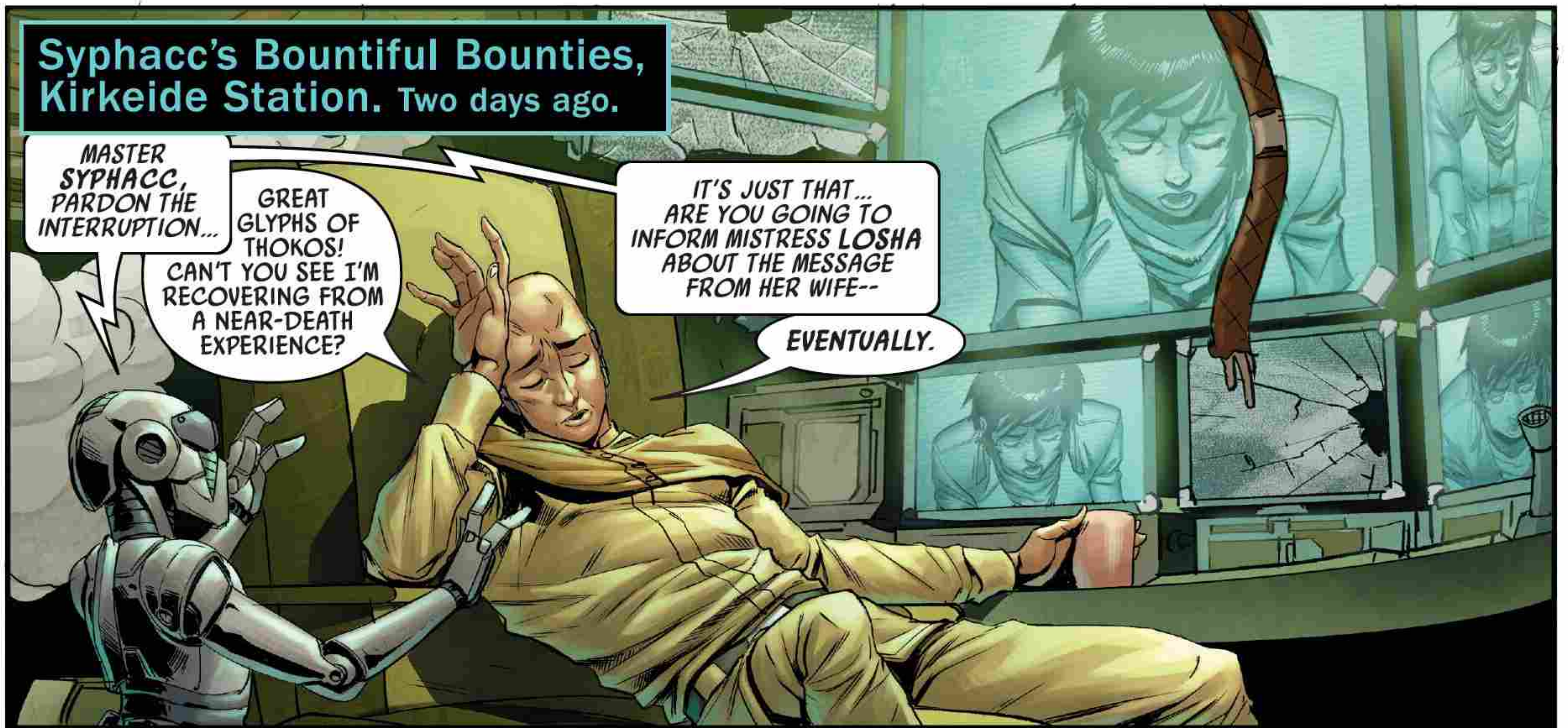
TROY ALDERS
ART DIRECTOR

**MATT MARTIN,
PABLO HIDALGO &
EMILY SHKOUKANI**
LUCASFILM STORY GROUP

**PHIL
SZOSTAK**
CREATIVE ART
MANAGER

Disney • LUCASFILM

Syphacc's Bountiful Bounties,
Kirkeide Station. Two days ago.



MASTER
SYPHACC,
PARDON THE
INTERRUPTION...

GREAT
GLYPHS OF
THOKOS!
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M
RECOVERING FROM
A NEAR-DEATH
EXPERIENCE?

IT'S JUST THAT...
ARE YOU GOING TO
INFORM MISTRESS LOSHA
ABOUT THE MESSAGE
FROM HER WIFE--

EVENTUALLY.



BUT, SIR...

DON'T
THINK I FORGOT
WHAT YOUR DROID
FRIENDS TRIED TO
DO TO ME!*

LEAVE MY SIGHT
BEFORE I DEACTIVATE
YOU...JUST IN CASE
YOU'RE INFECTED!

CRASH

*SEE ISSUE #39.



WHY WOULD
I BE IN A RUSH
TO LOSE MY **BEST**
BODYGUARD--

--WITH
ALL THOSE
REPORTS OF **DROID**
MALFUNCTIONS
ACROSS THE
SECTOR?

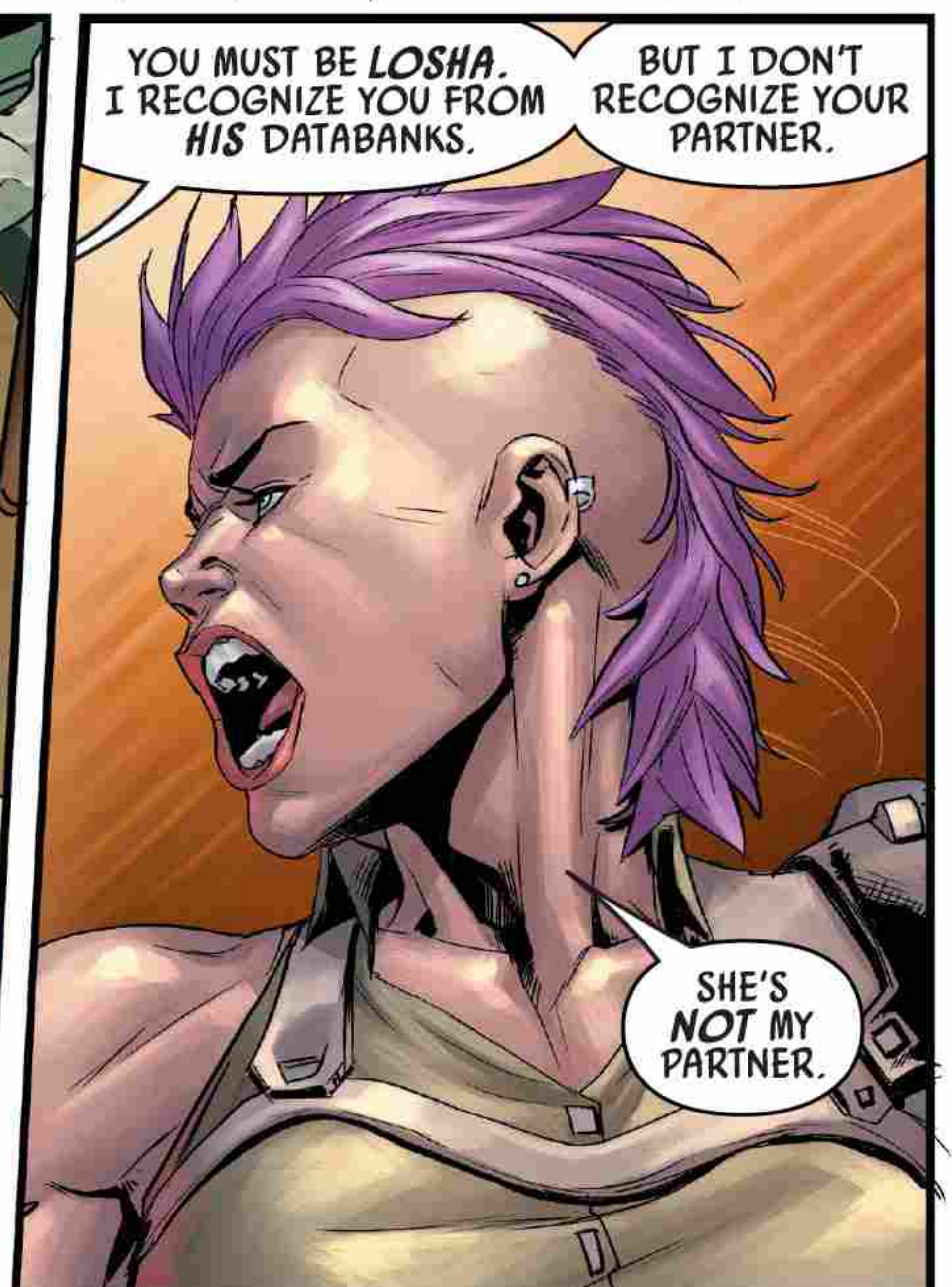


THESE DROIDS
SEEM TO HAVE HAD
THEIR NEURAL
PROCESSORS
SLICED
SOMEHOW.

WHAT IF
THERE ARE MORE
COMPROMISED
DROIDS OUT
THERE...?

SO WHAT?
WE CAN TAKE
MORE OF THEM.
WE MAKE
A GREAT
TEAM!

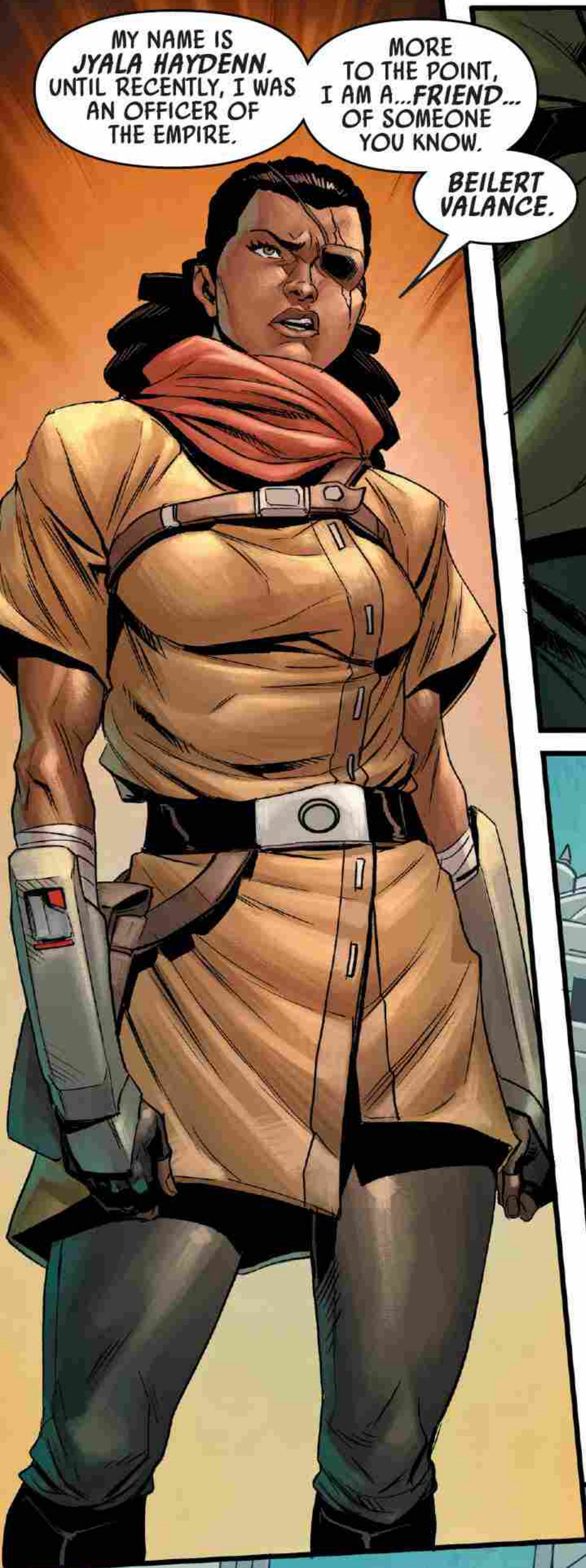
WE
ARE NOT
A TEAM.

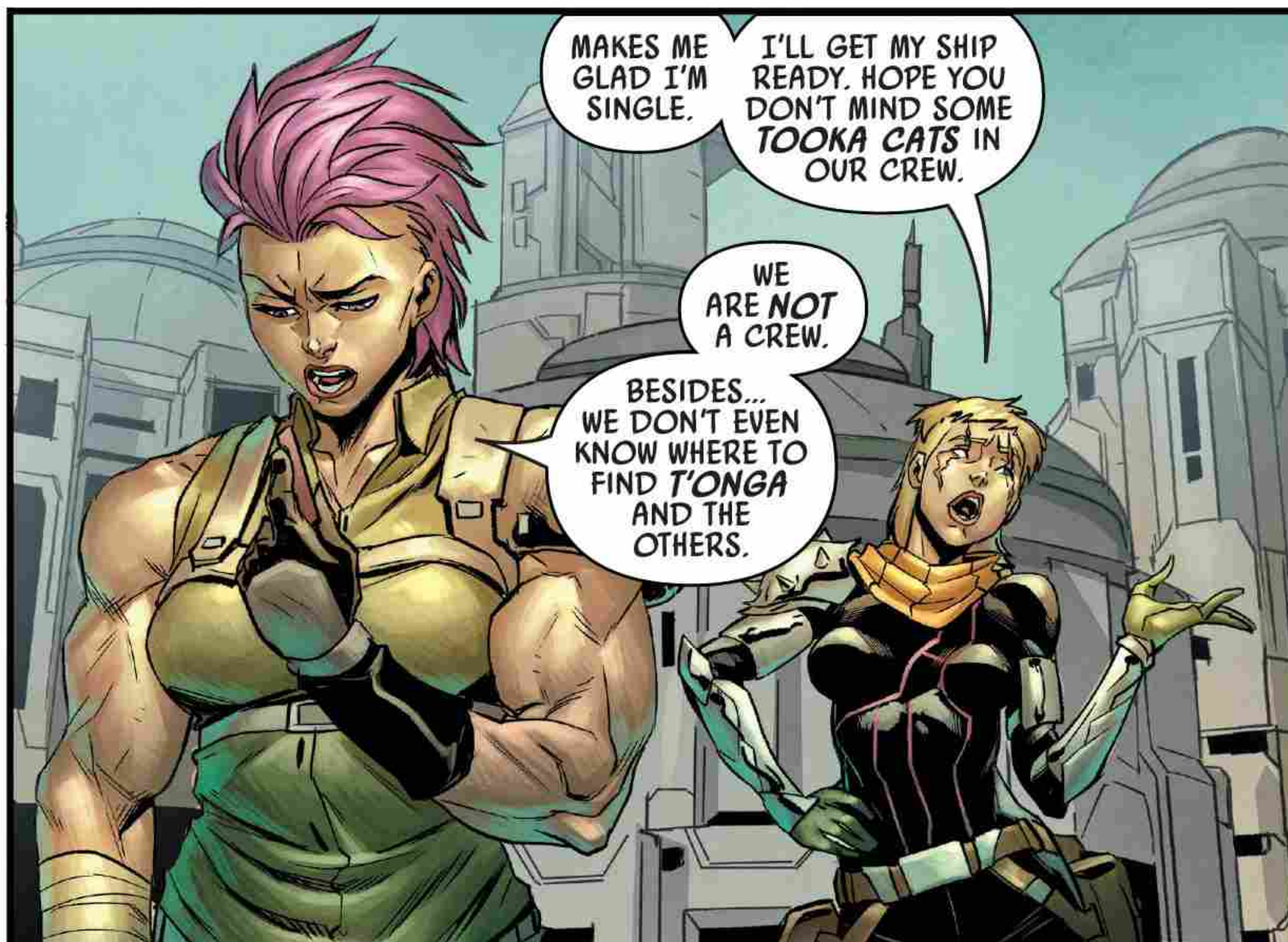


YOU MUST BE **LOSHA**.
I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM
HIS DATABANKS.

BUT I DON'T
RECOGNIZE YOUR
PARTNER.

SHE'S
NOT MY
PARTNER.







The galactic communications hub of Epikonia.

"--A SENSE OF URGENCY."

Now.

I LOST SO MANY IN THE EXPERIMENTS, BUT NOW THE ORGANICS SURVIVE THE CONVERSION...*MOSTLY*.

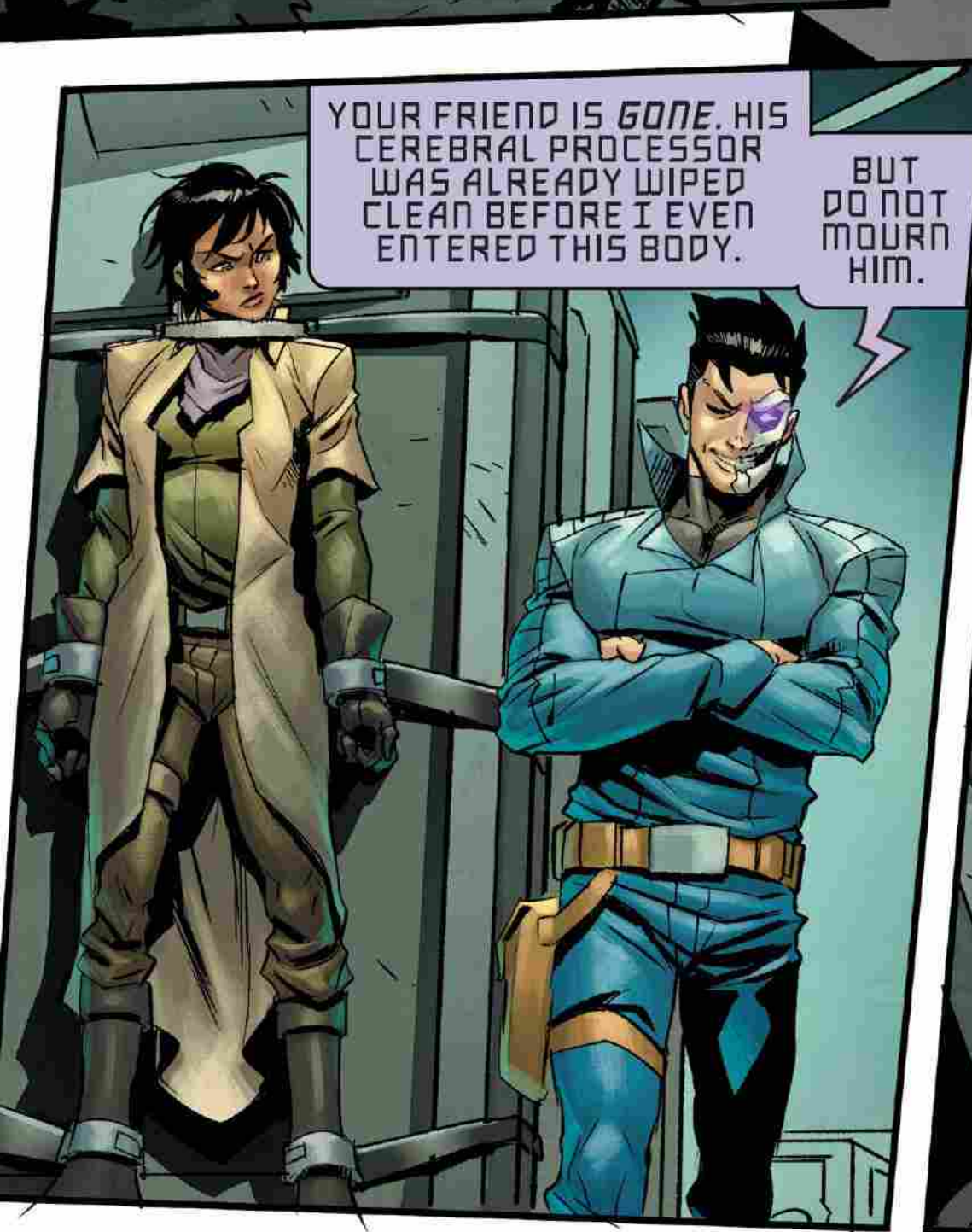
THE PROCESS HAS BEEN SPED UP, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH TO SATIATE THE *HUNGER*.

I NEED *MORE* MINDS.

VALANCE, PLEASE...THIS ISN'T YOU.

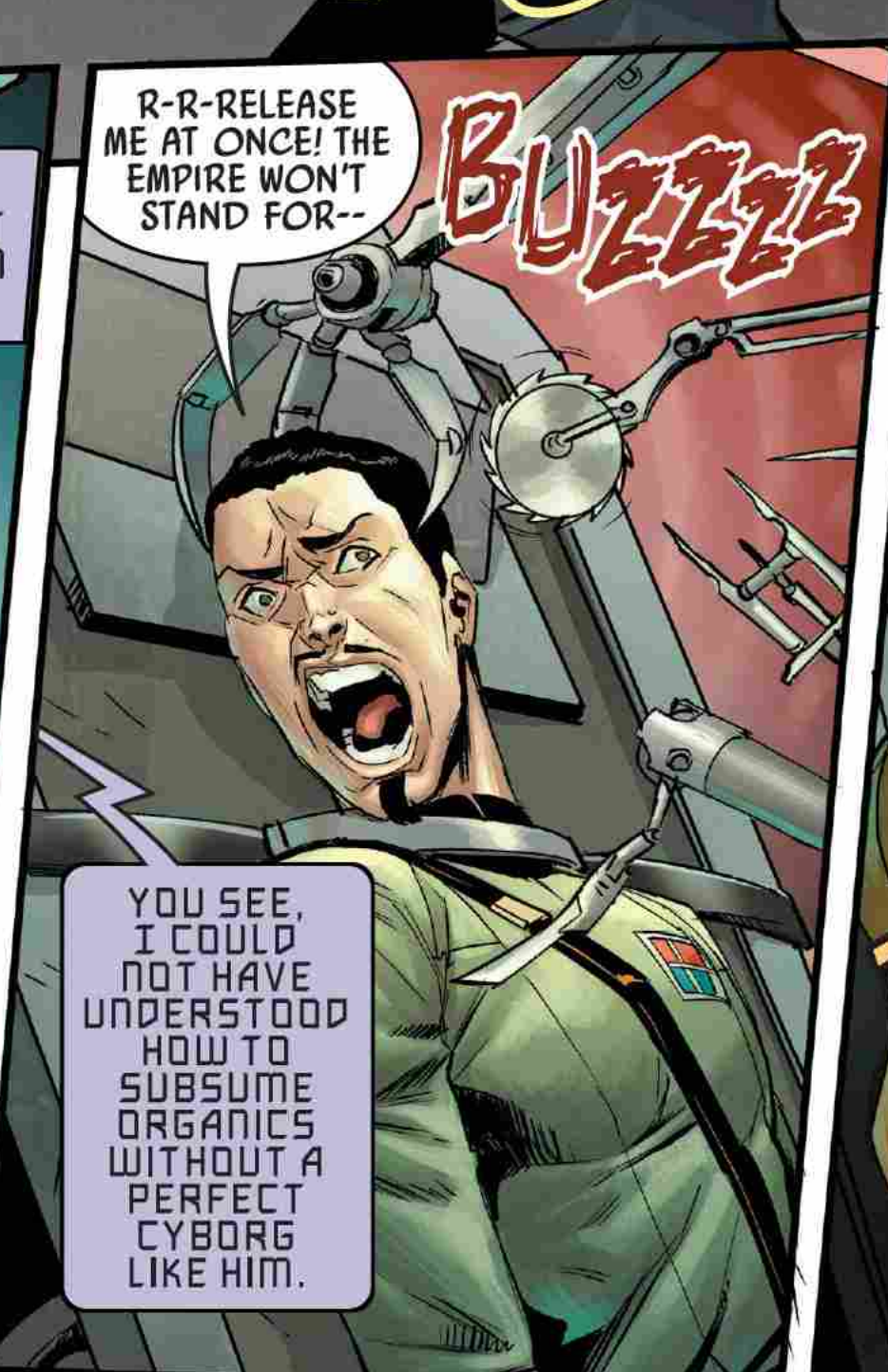
I KNOW SOMEWHERE DEEP DOWN INSIDE YOU REMEMBER WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

WHOOOOOOOOSSSHHHH



YOUR FRIEND IS *GONE*. HIS CEREBRAL PROCESSOR WAS ALREADY WIPE CLEAN BEFORE I EVEN ENTERED THIS BODY.

BUT DO NOT MOURN HIM.



R-R-RELEASE ME AT ONCE! THE EMPIRE WON'T STAND FOR--

YOU SEE, I COULD NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD HOW TO SUBSUME ORGANICS WITHOUT A PERFECT CYBORG LIKE HIM.



TAK

TAK

TAK

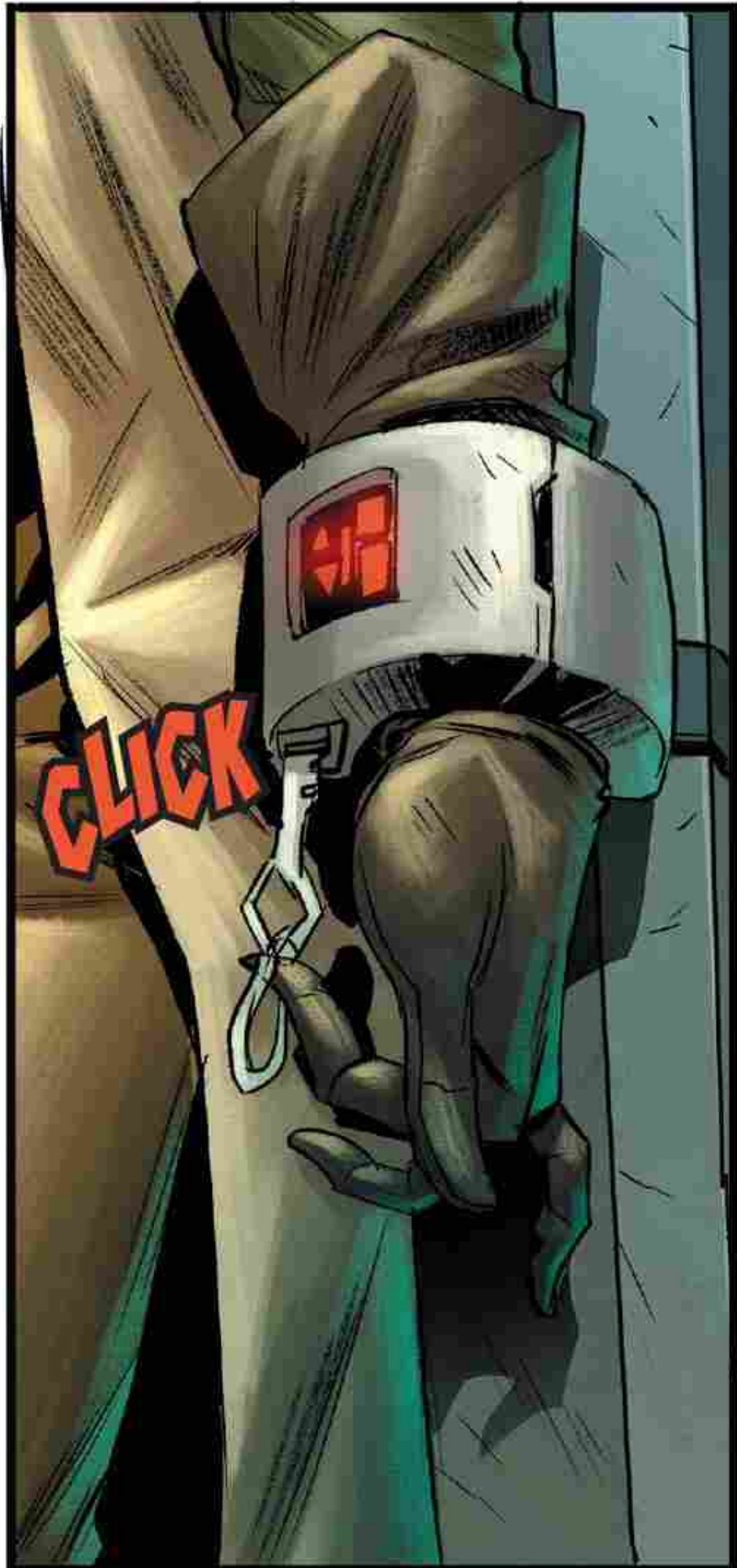
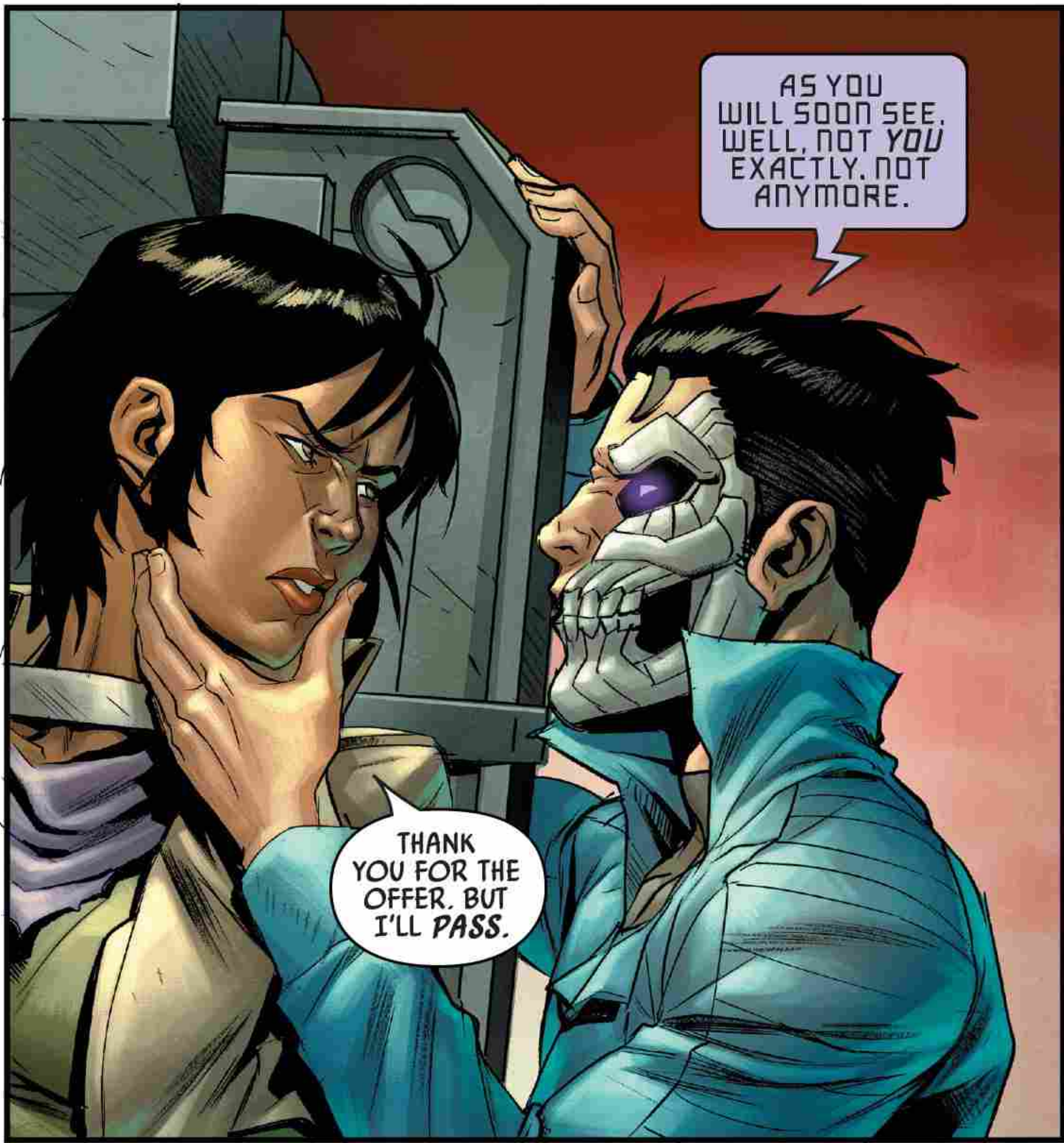
TAK

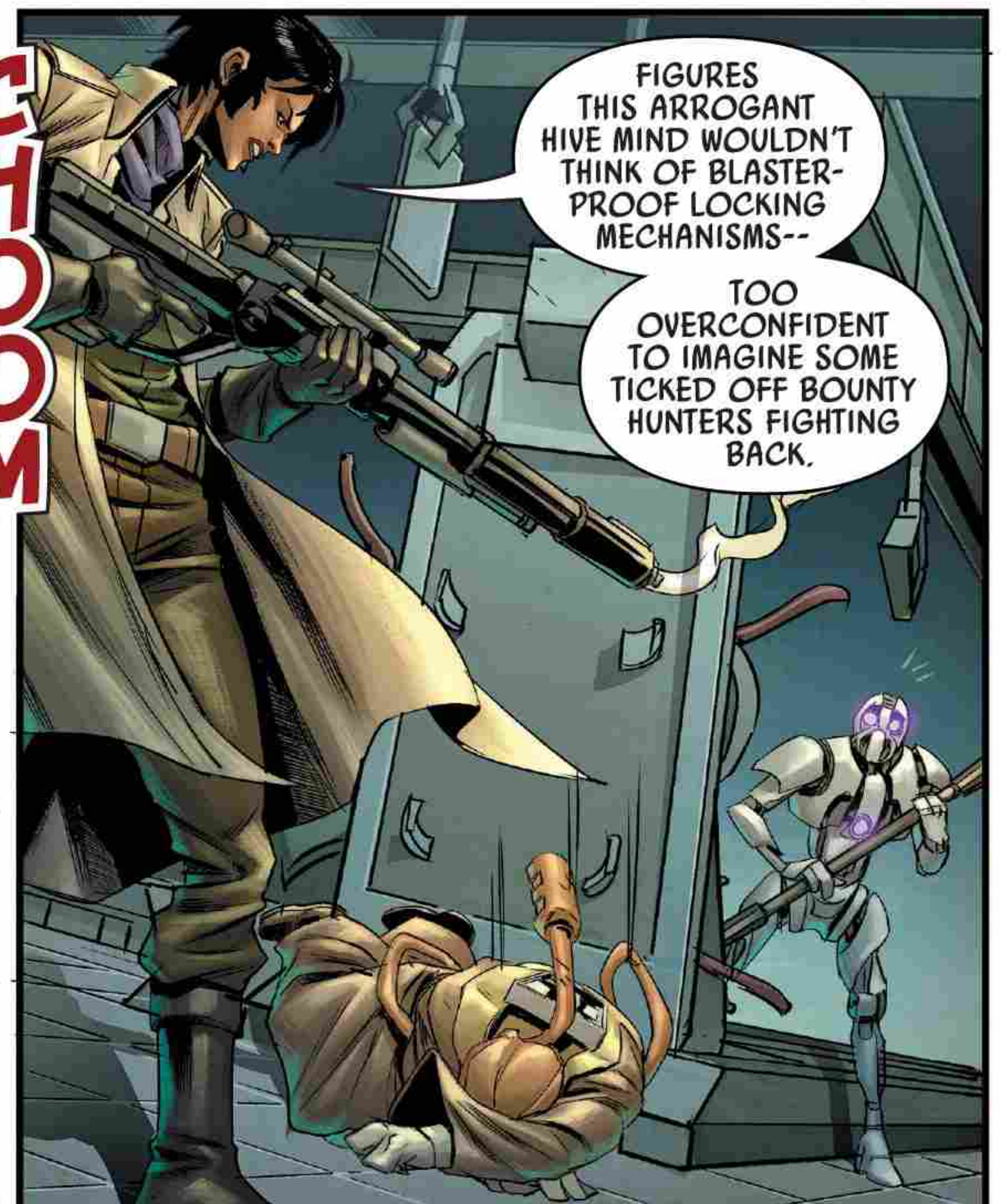
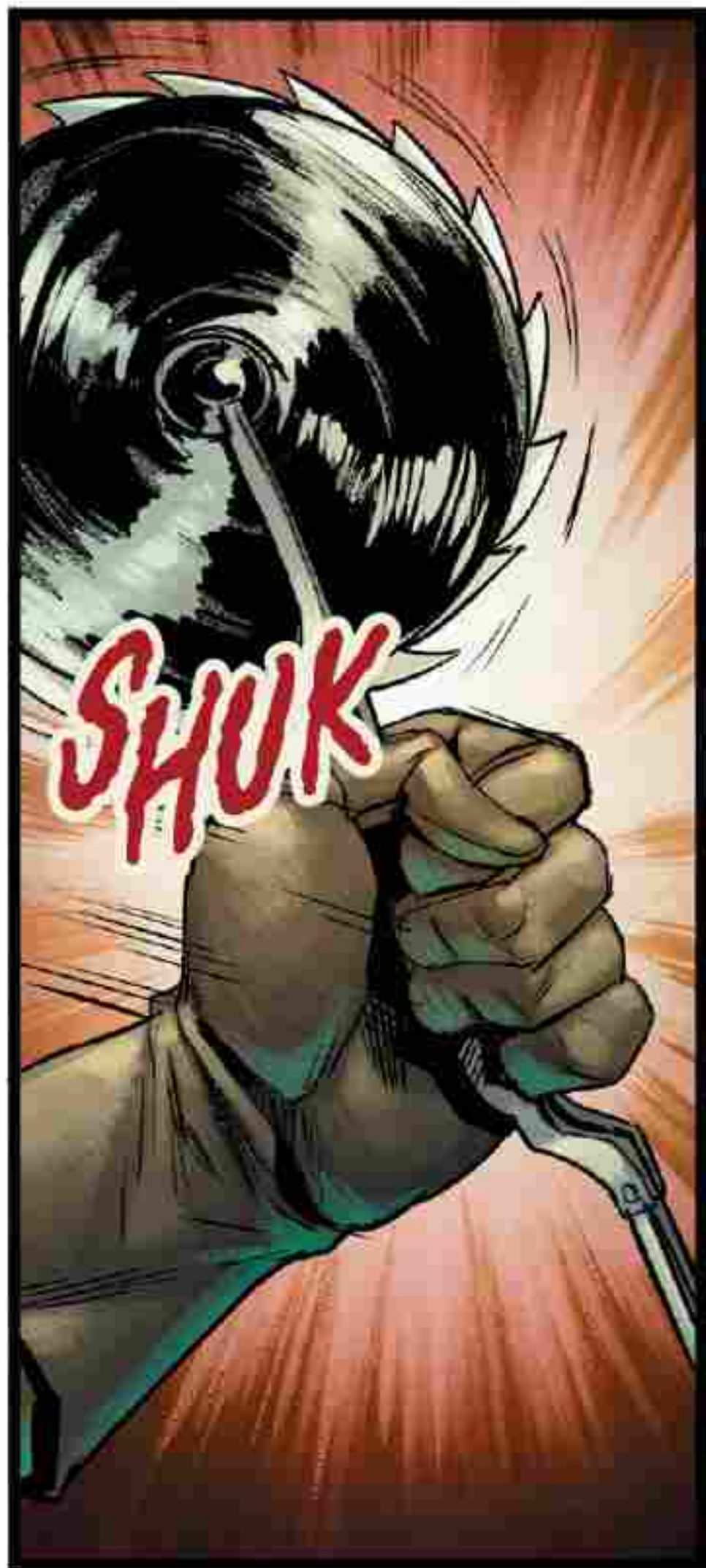
BUZZZZ

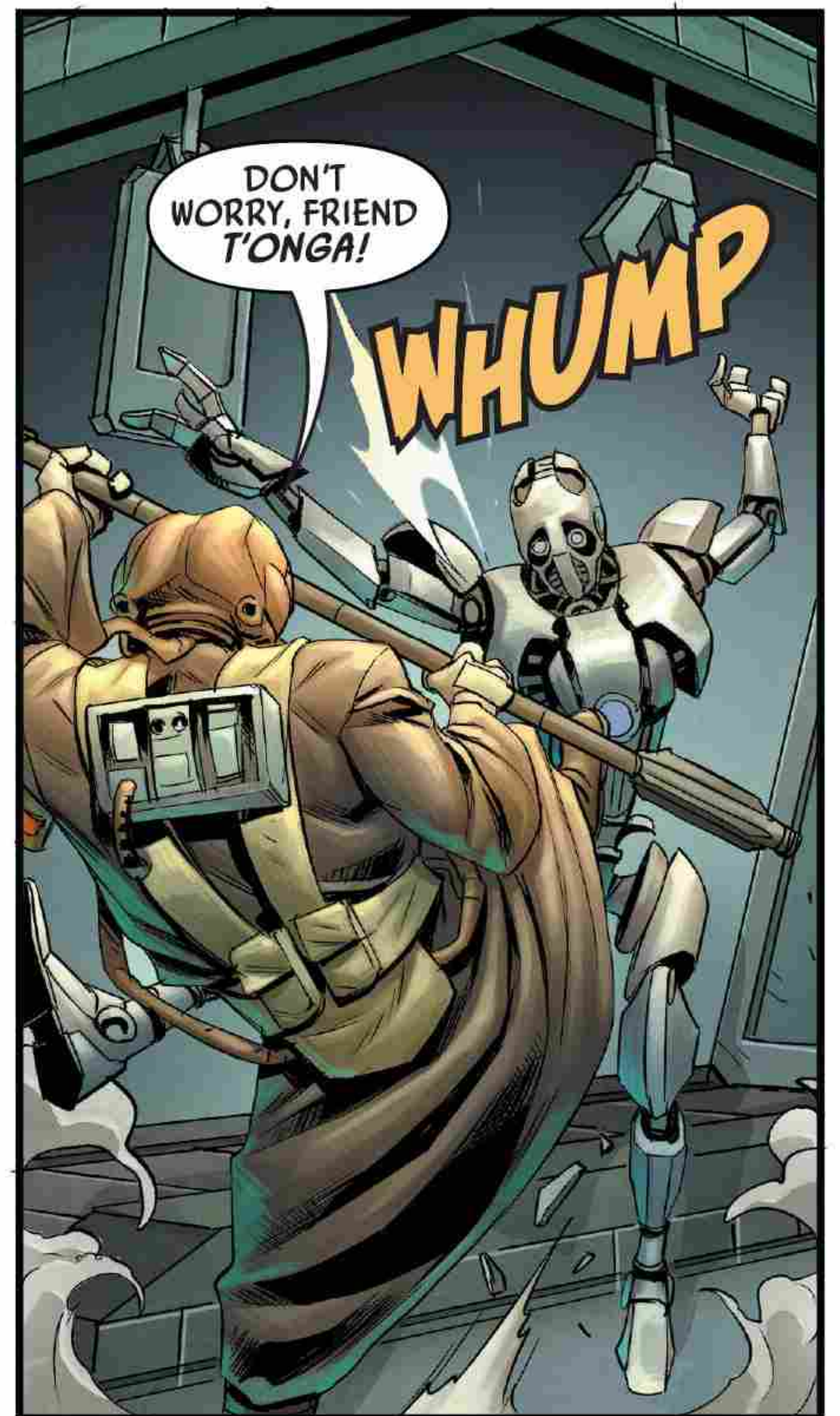
AND NOW THAT I UNDERSTAND, I WILL HAVE NO LIMITS. MORE WILL BE US--

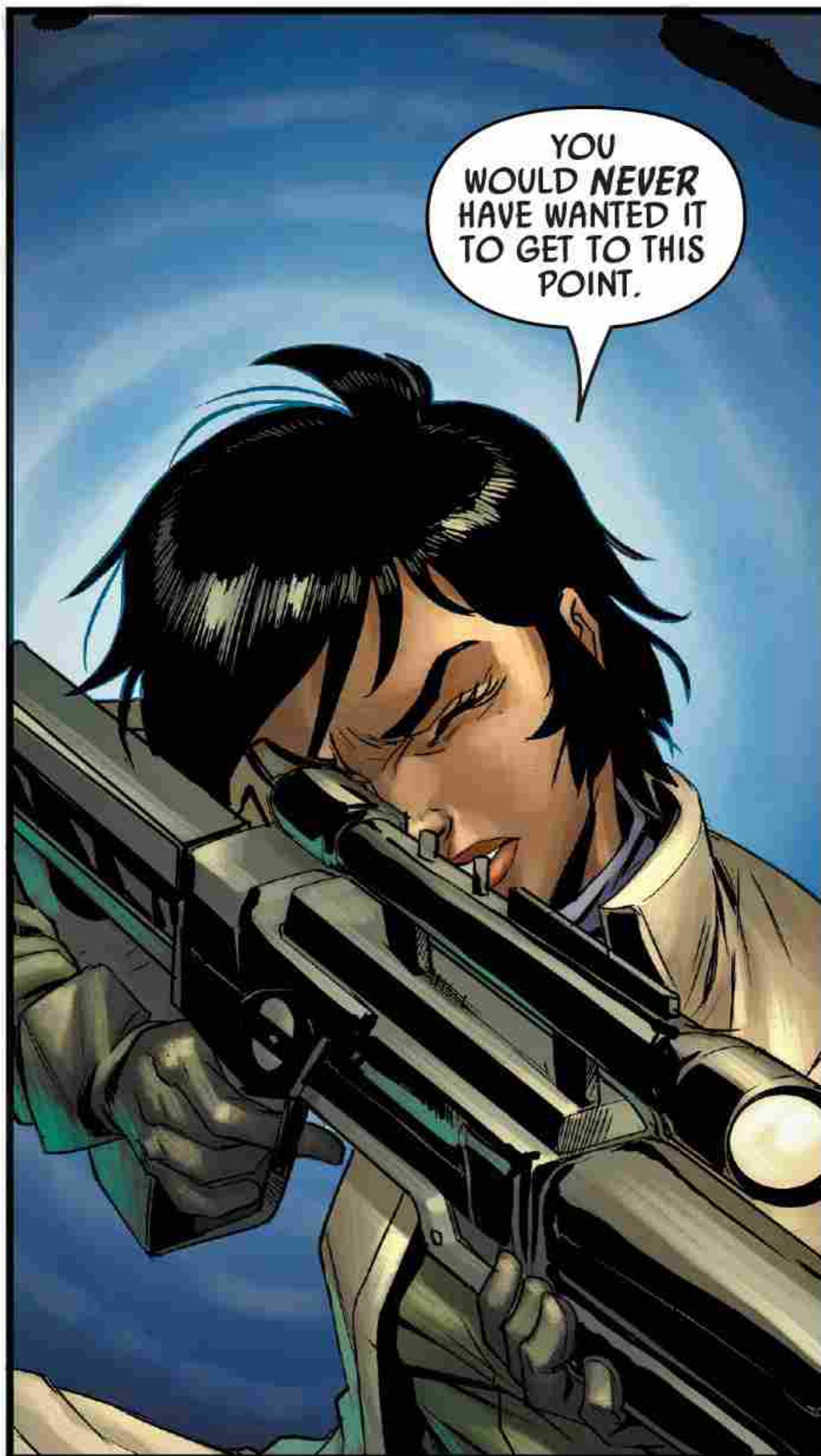


--AND I WILL CONSUME MORE!











YOUR
SENTIMENTALITY
MAKES YOU
WEAK.

UH-
OH.

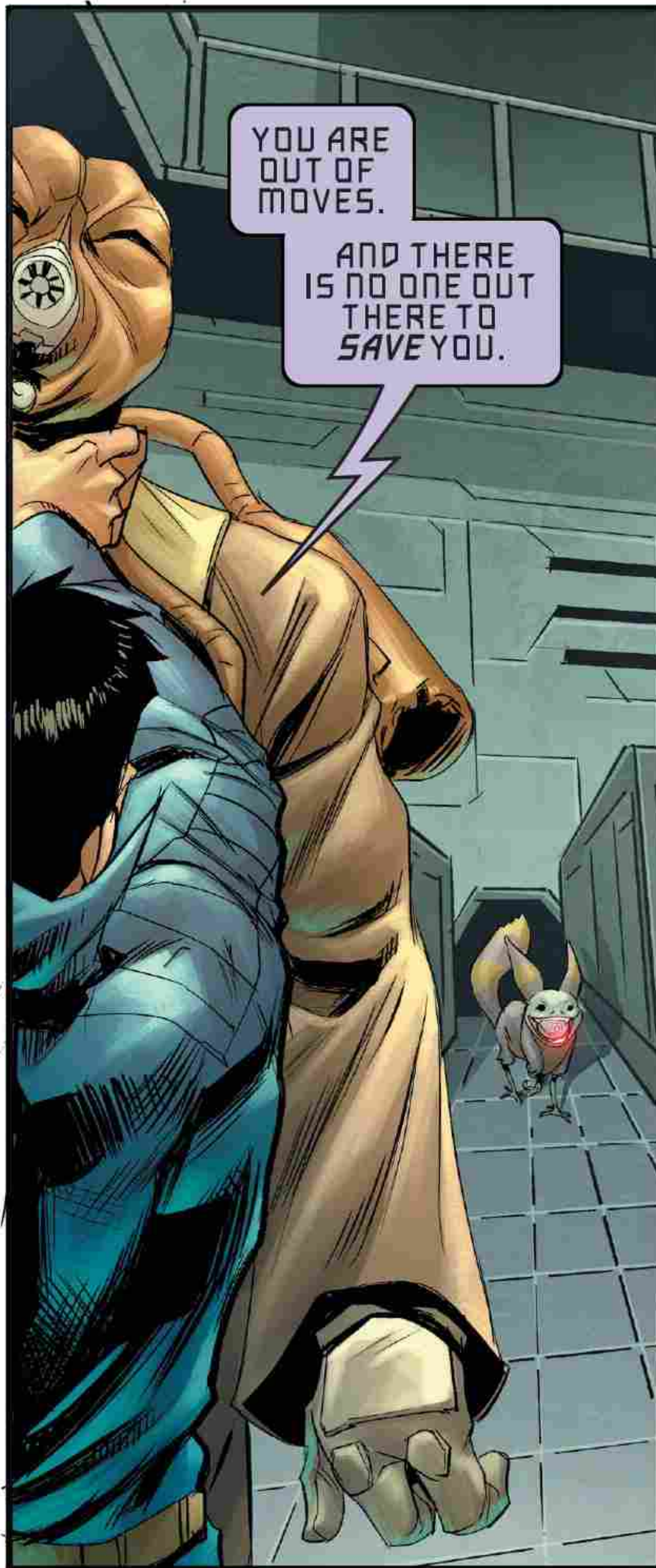


=GASP=

BUT
YOU WILL
SOON BE--

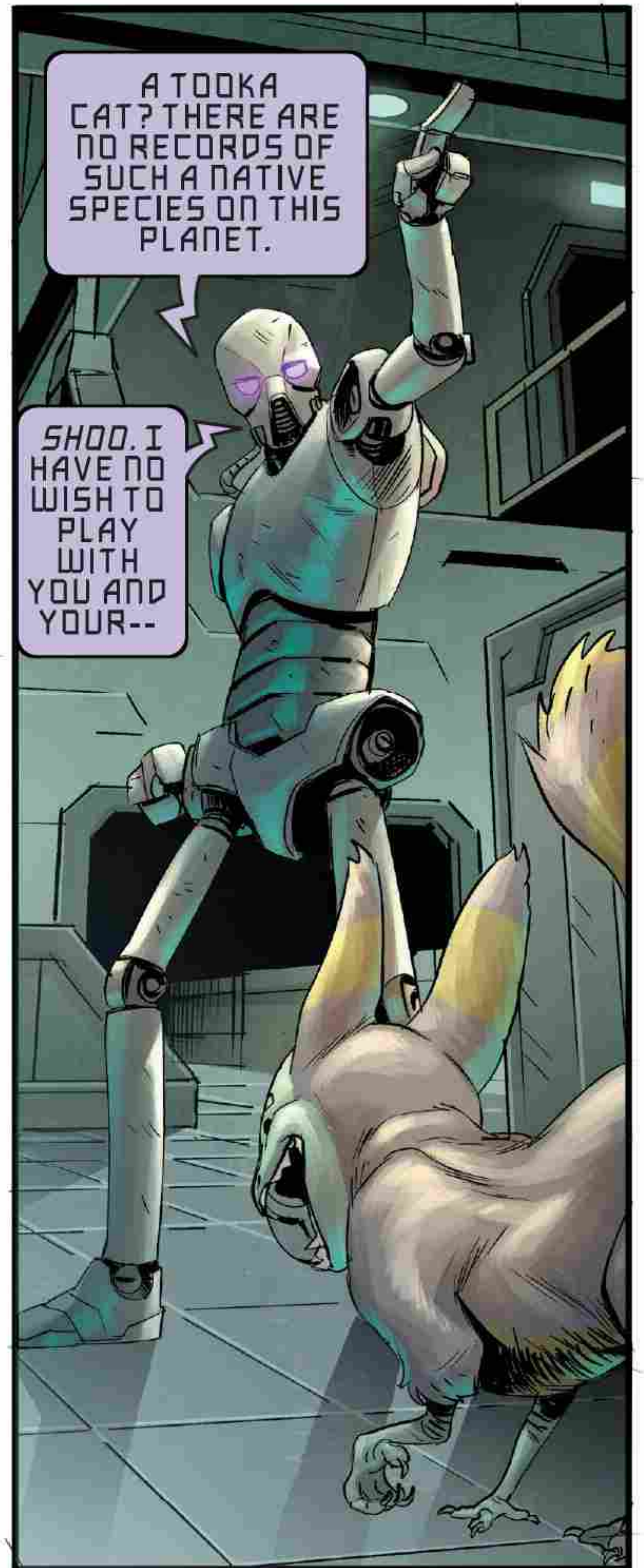
--VASTLY
IMPROVED--

--PART OF A HIGHER
CONSCIOUSNESS.



YOU ARE
OUT OF
MOVES.

AND THERE
IS NO ONE OUT
THERE TO
SAVE YOU.



A TOOKA
CAT? THERE ARE
NO RECORDS OF
SUCH A NATIVE
SPECIES ON THIS
PLANET.

SHOO. I
HAVE NO
WISH TO
PLAY
WITH
YOU AND
YOUR--



--BALL?!

THUMP





WE
DARE.



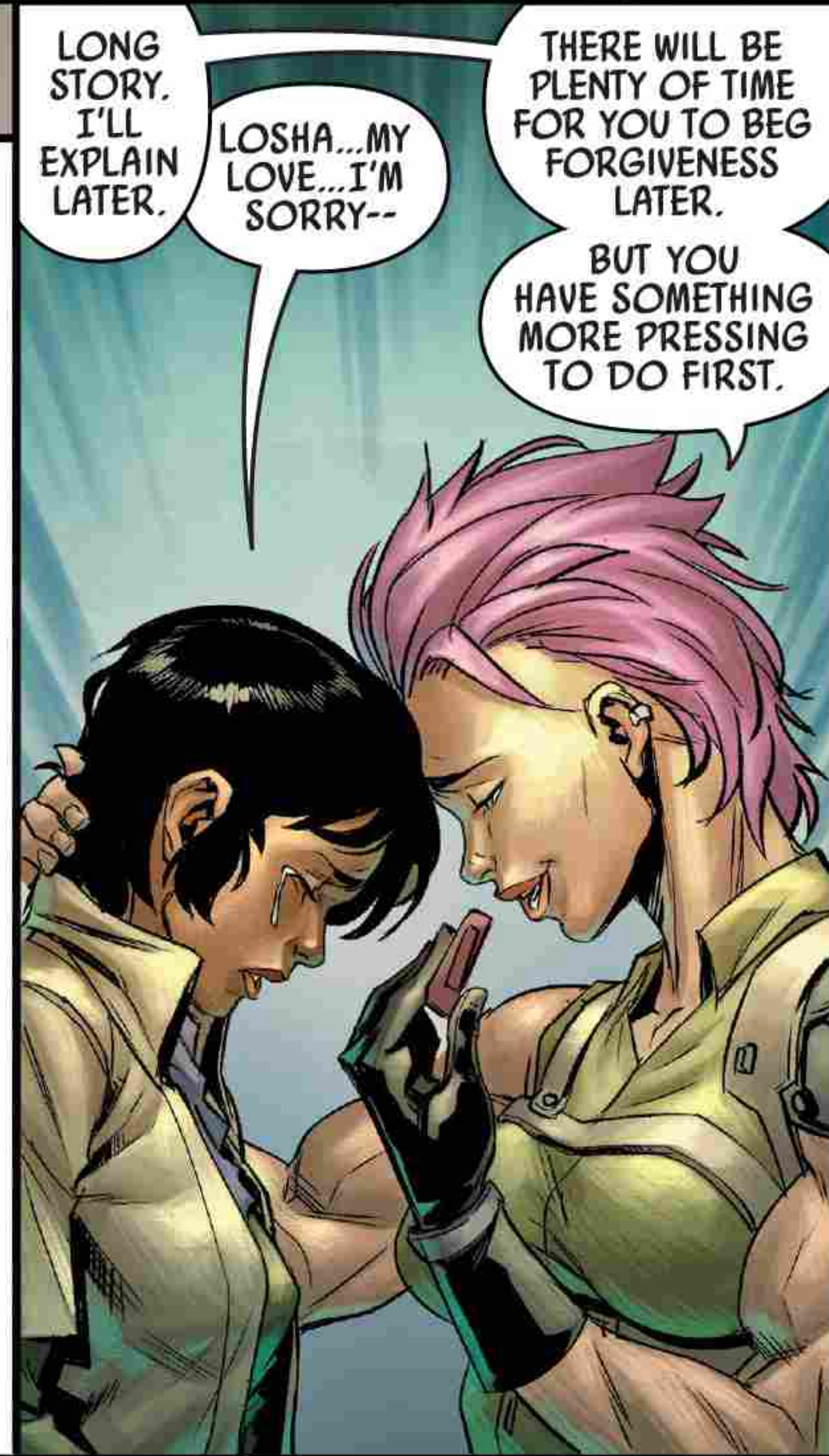
CHOOM

LOSHA!



CHOOM

WAIT...IS THAT...
VUKORAH?!

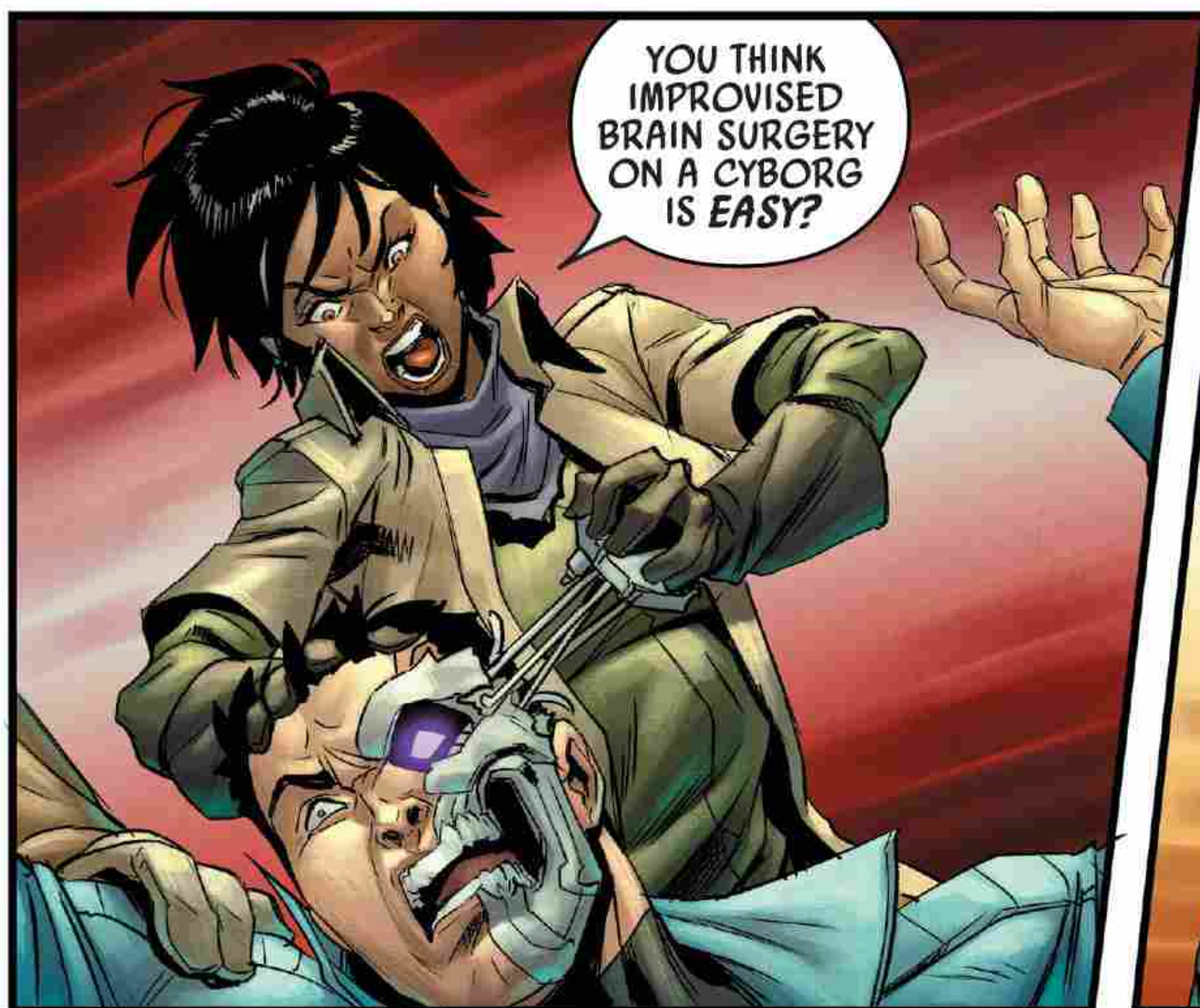
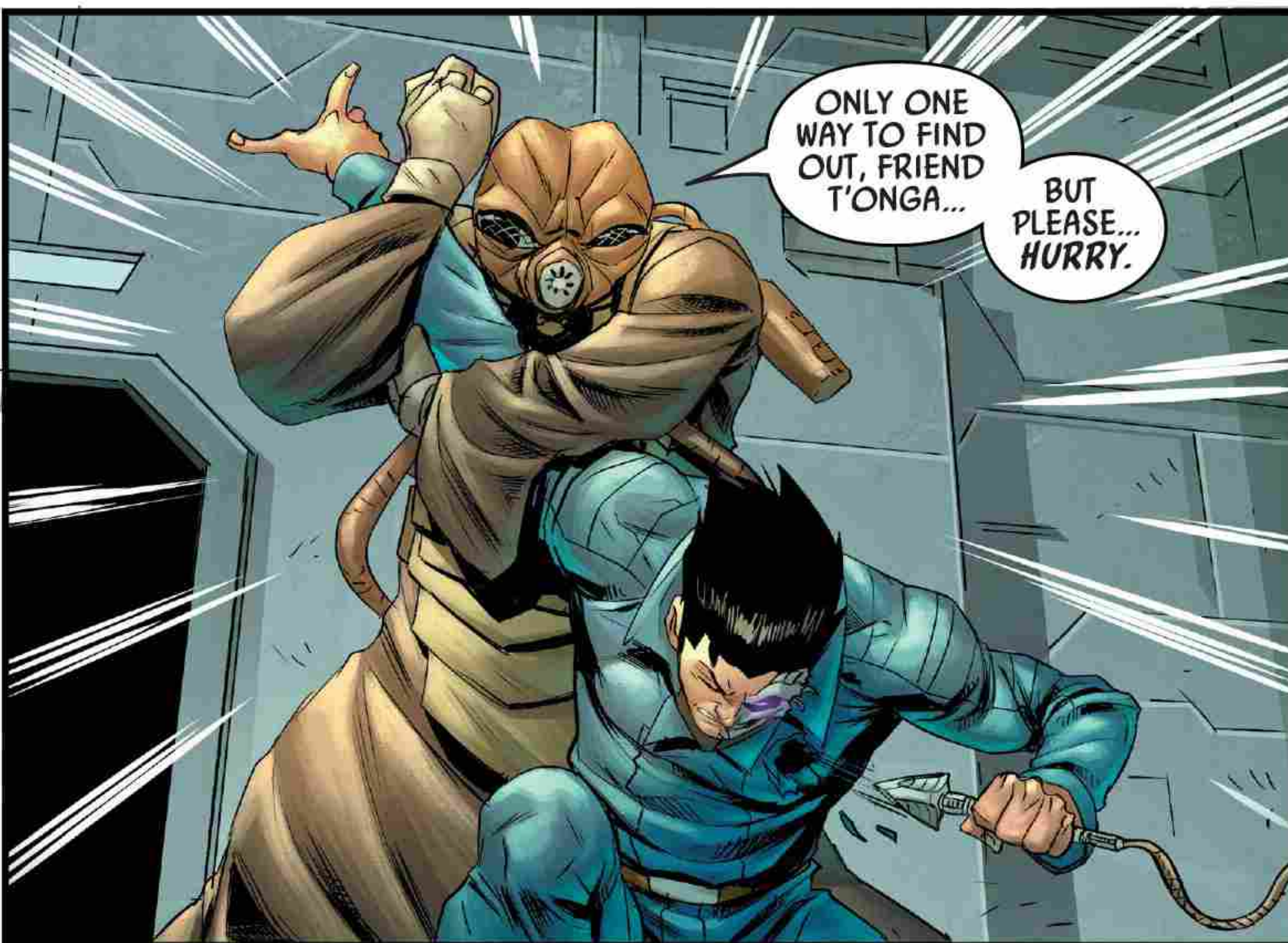
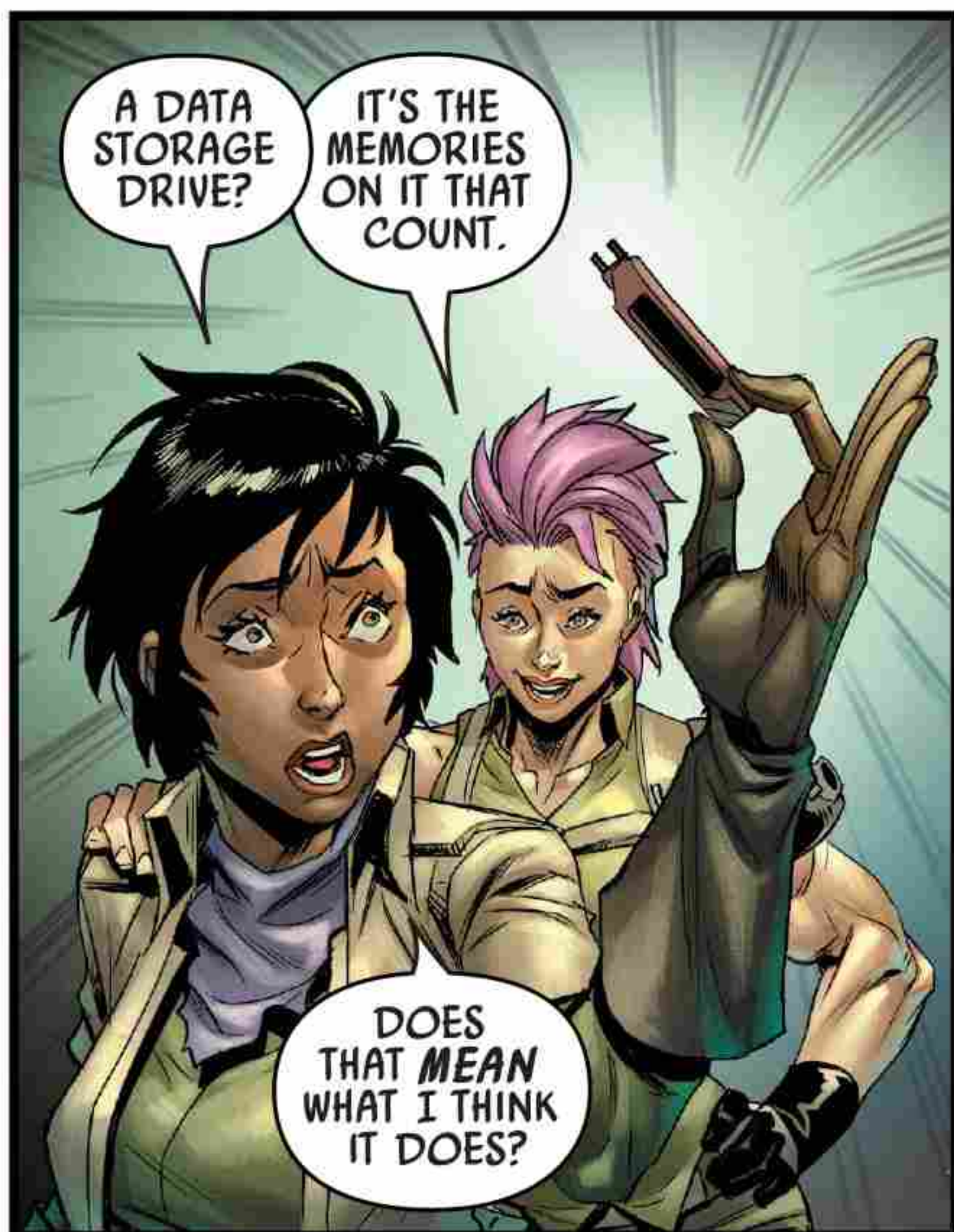


LONG
STORY.
I'LL
EXPLAIN
LATER.

LOSHA...MY
LOVE...I'M
SORRY--

THERE WILL BE
PLENTY OF TIME
FOR YOU TO BEG
FORGIVENESS
LATER.

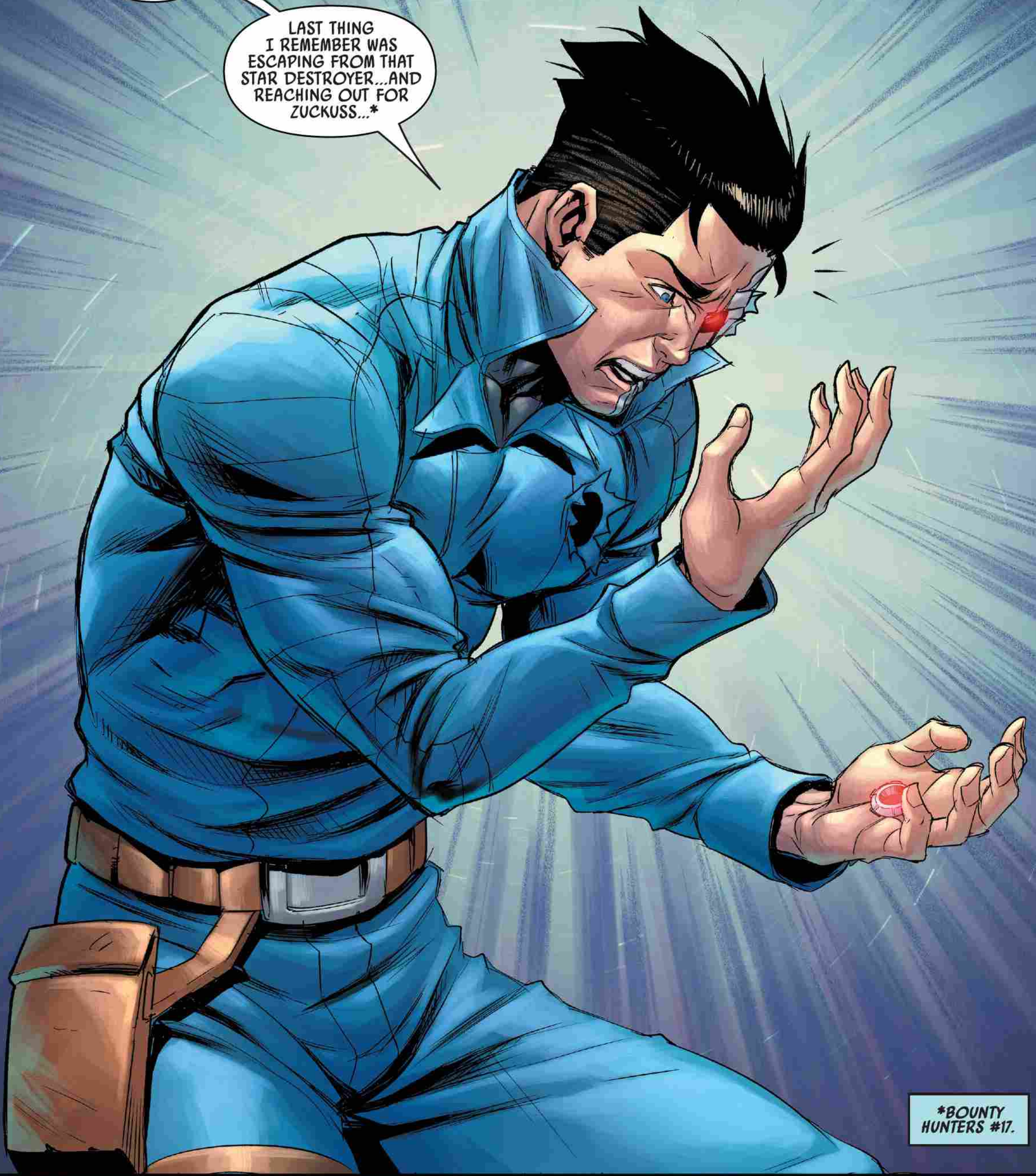
BUT YOU
HAVE SOMETHING
MORE PRESSING
TO DO FIRST.





--IN
THE HELLS
AM I?

LAST THING
I REMEMBER WAS
ESCAPING FROM THAT
STAR DESTROYER...AND
REACHING OUT FOR
ZUCKUSS...*



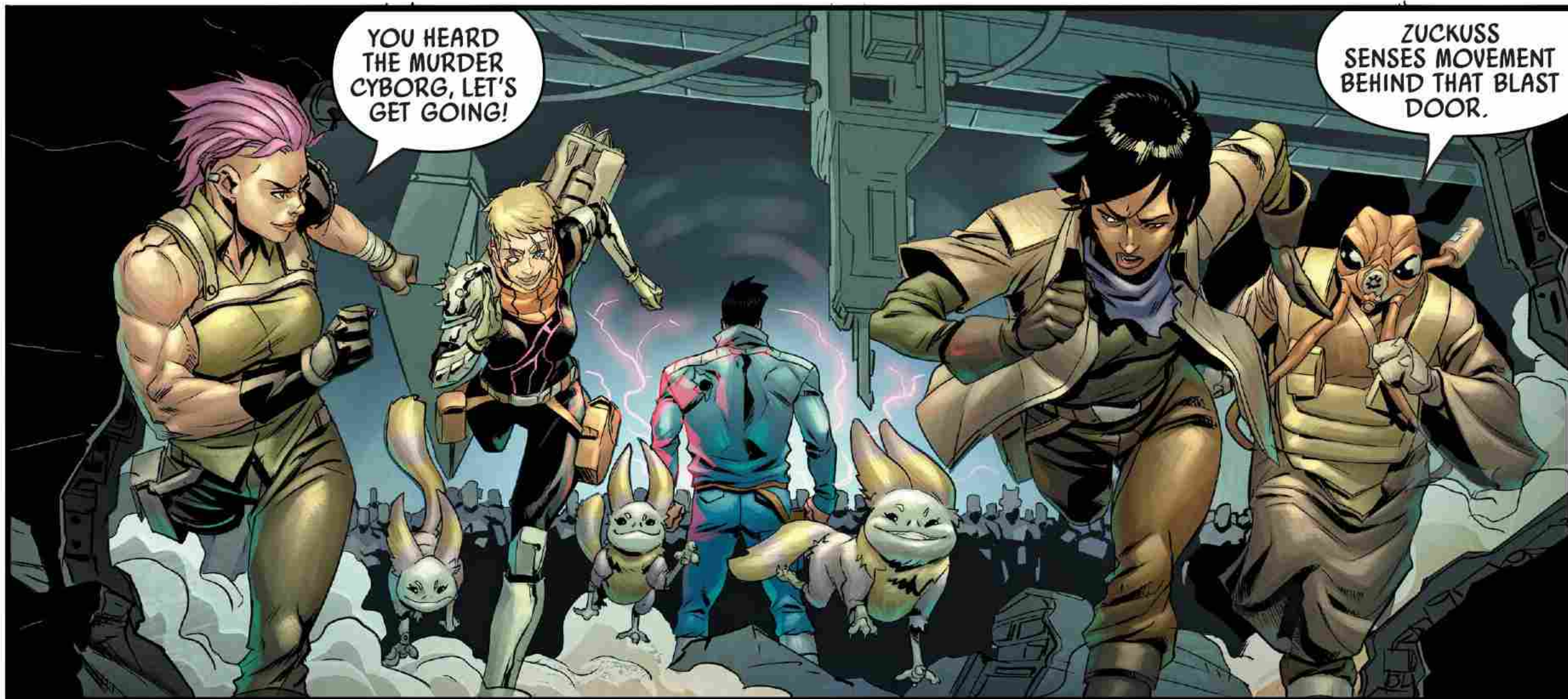
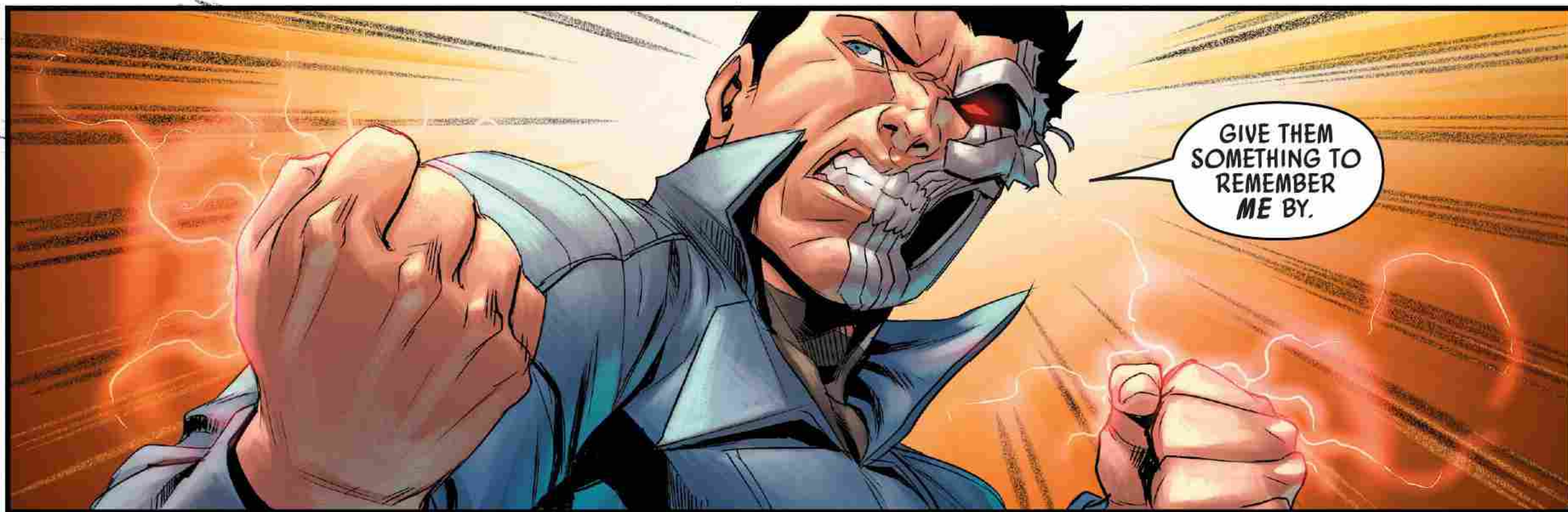
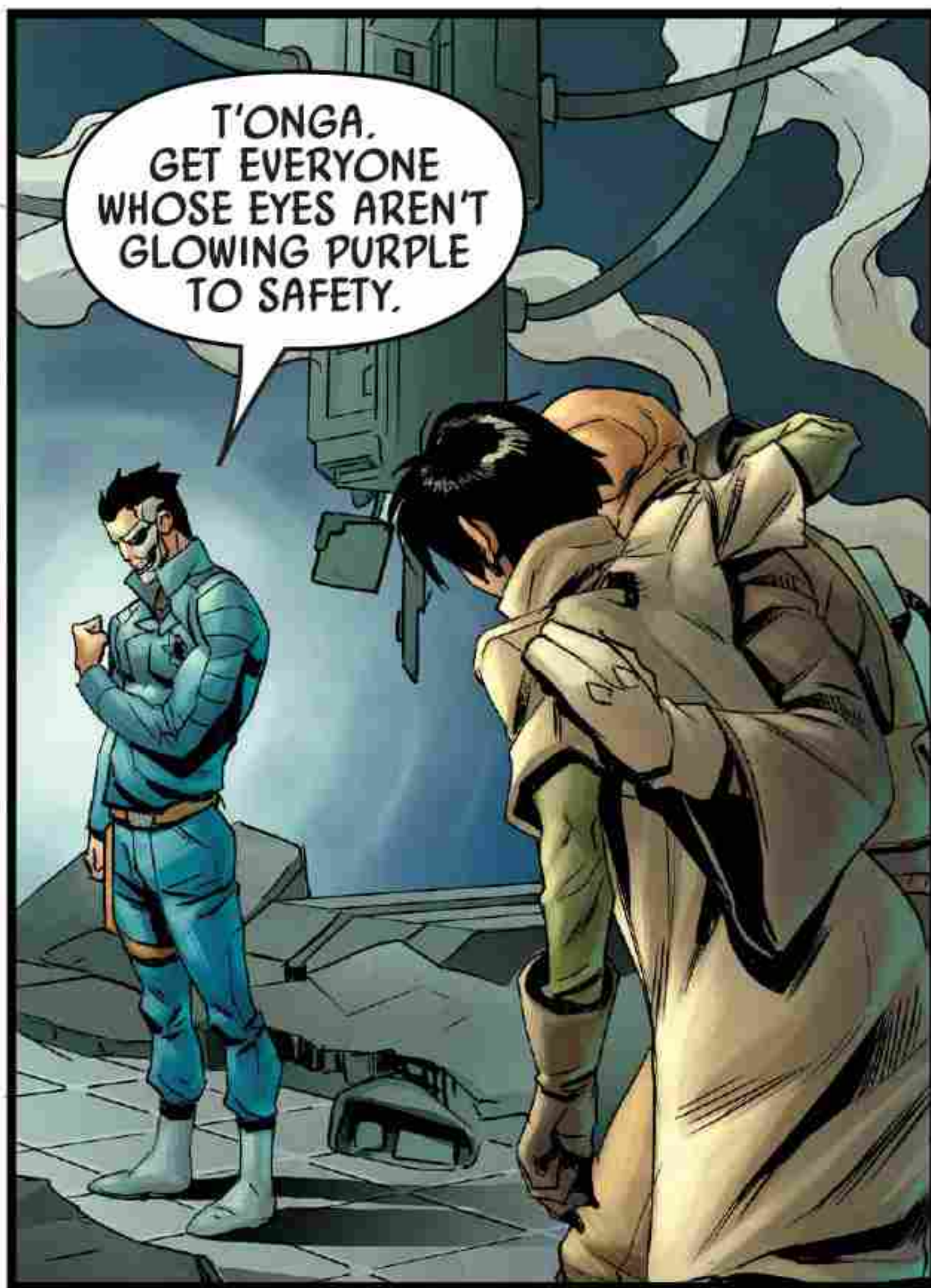
*BOUNTY
HUNTERS #17.

ZUCKUSS
STILL HAS YOUR
ARM...IF YOU WANT
IT BACK.



THE SHORT
VERSION?
YOU WERE TAKEN
OVER BY SOME
KIND OF EVIL
HIVE MIND.

IT'S INFECTED
ALL THOSE DROIDS
AND THE PEOPLE
WITH THE **GLOWING
PURPLE EYES** WHO
ARE ABOUT TO
SWARM US.







SEEMS LIKE
WHATEVER WAS
POSSESSING THOSE
DROIDS IS
GONE*--

--SO IT'S
BACK TO JUST THE
EMPIRE, SYNDICATES
AND ASSASSINS
PLAGUING THE
GALAXY.

WHICH
MEANS MORE
LUCRATIVE
BOUNTIES
FOR US!

AND
THAT'S GOOD,
BECAUSE CAT
FOOD IS
EXPENSIVE.

*READ DARK
DROIDS #5!



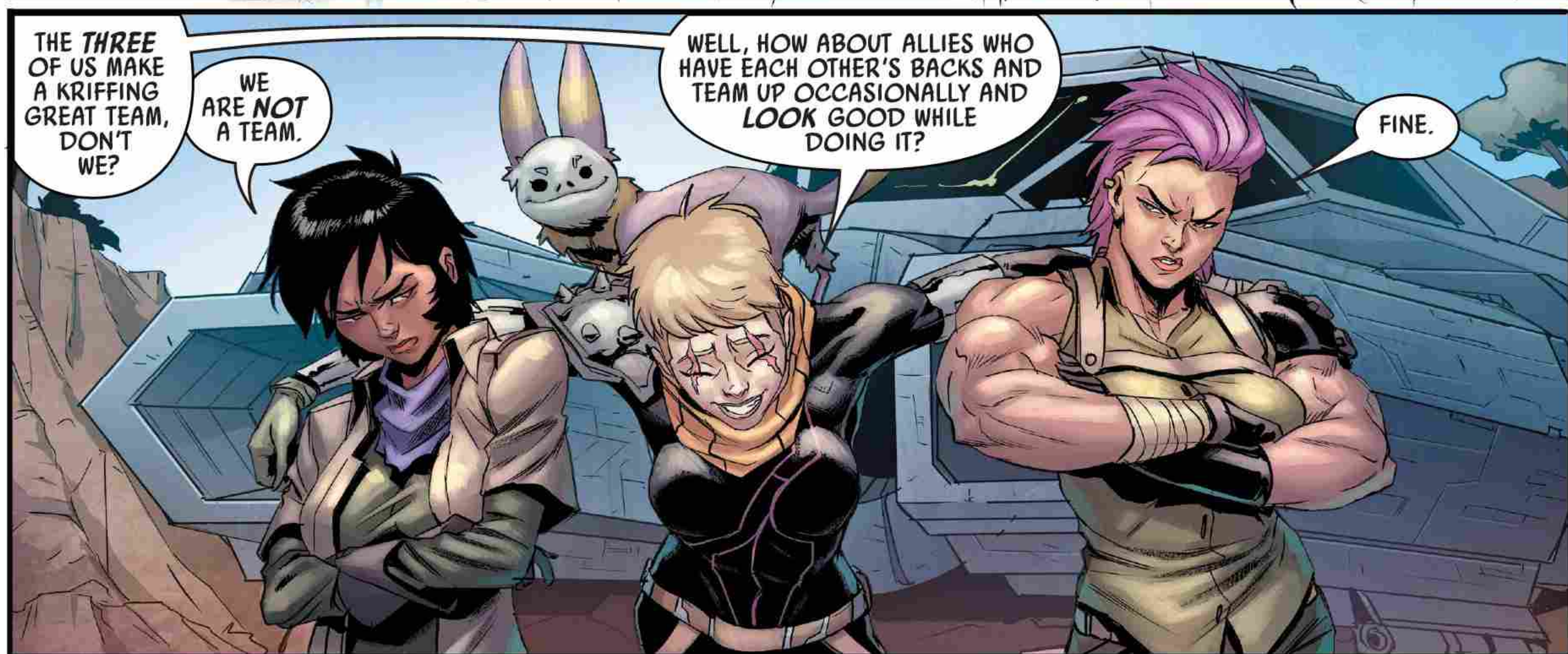
LOSHA, I'M
SO SORRY.
I DID
WHAT I DID
TO TRY TO
KEEP YOU
SAFE--

--AND
INSTEAD
YOU
ENDED UP
SAVING
ME.

I...I
DON'T
DESERVE
YOU...

EH, YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T.

BUT YOU
CAN WORK ON
MAKING IT UP TO
ME--OVER THE
REST OF OUR
LIFETIMES.

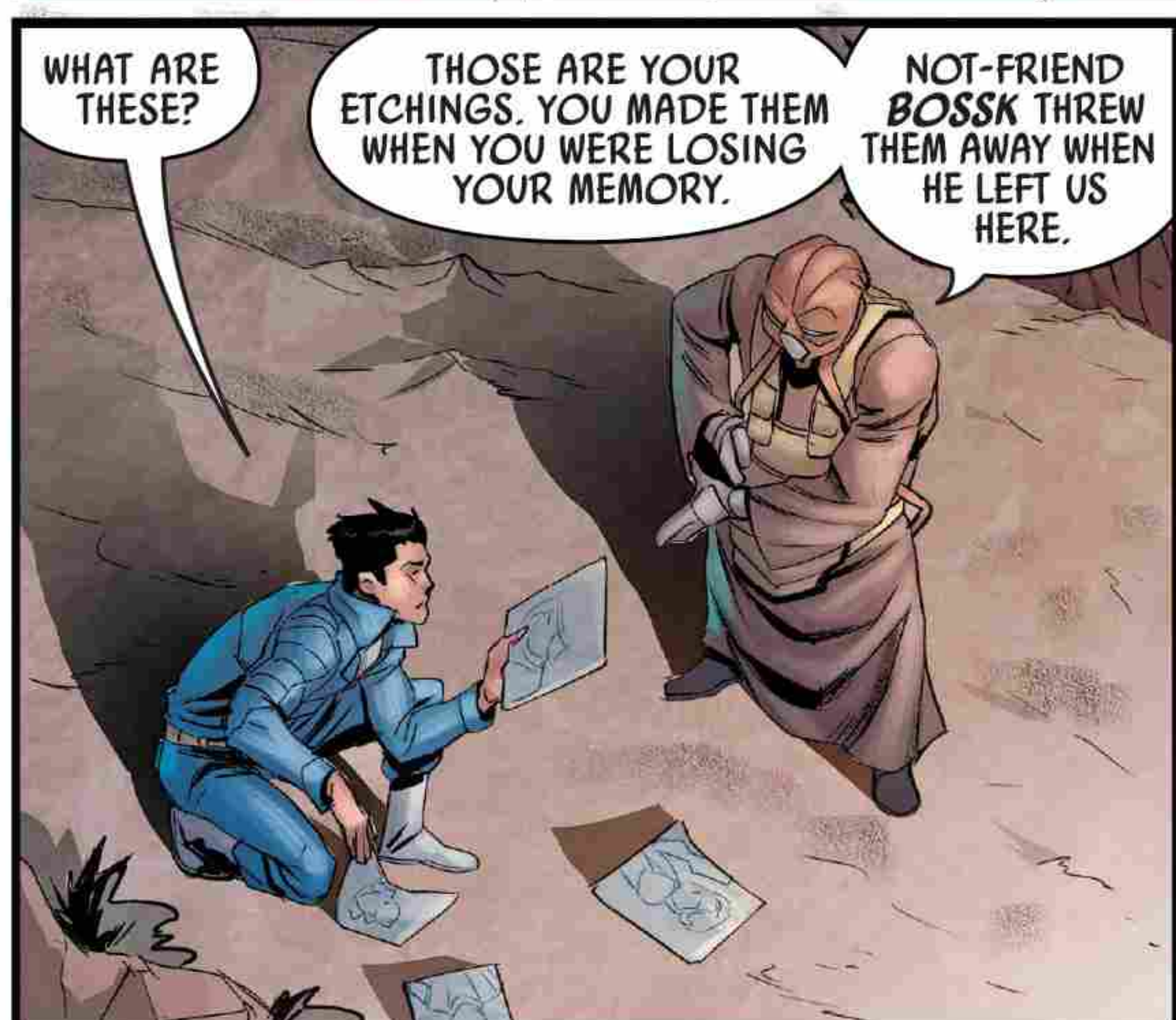


THE **THREE**
OF US MAKE
A KRIFING
GREAT TEAM,
DON'T
WE?

WE
ARE **NOT**
A TEAM.

WELL, HOW ABOUT ALLIES WHO
HAVE EACH OTHER'S BACKS AND
TEAM UP OCCASIONALLY AND
LOOK GOOD WHILE
DOING IT?

FINE.



WHAT ARE
THESE?

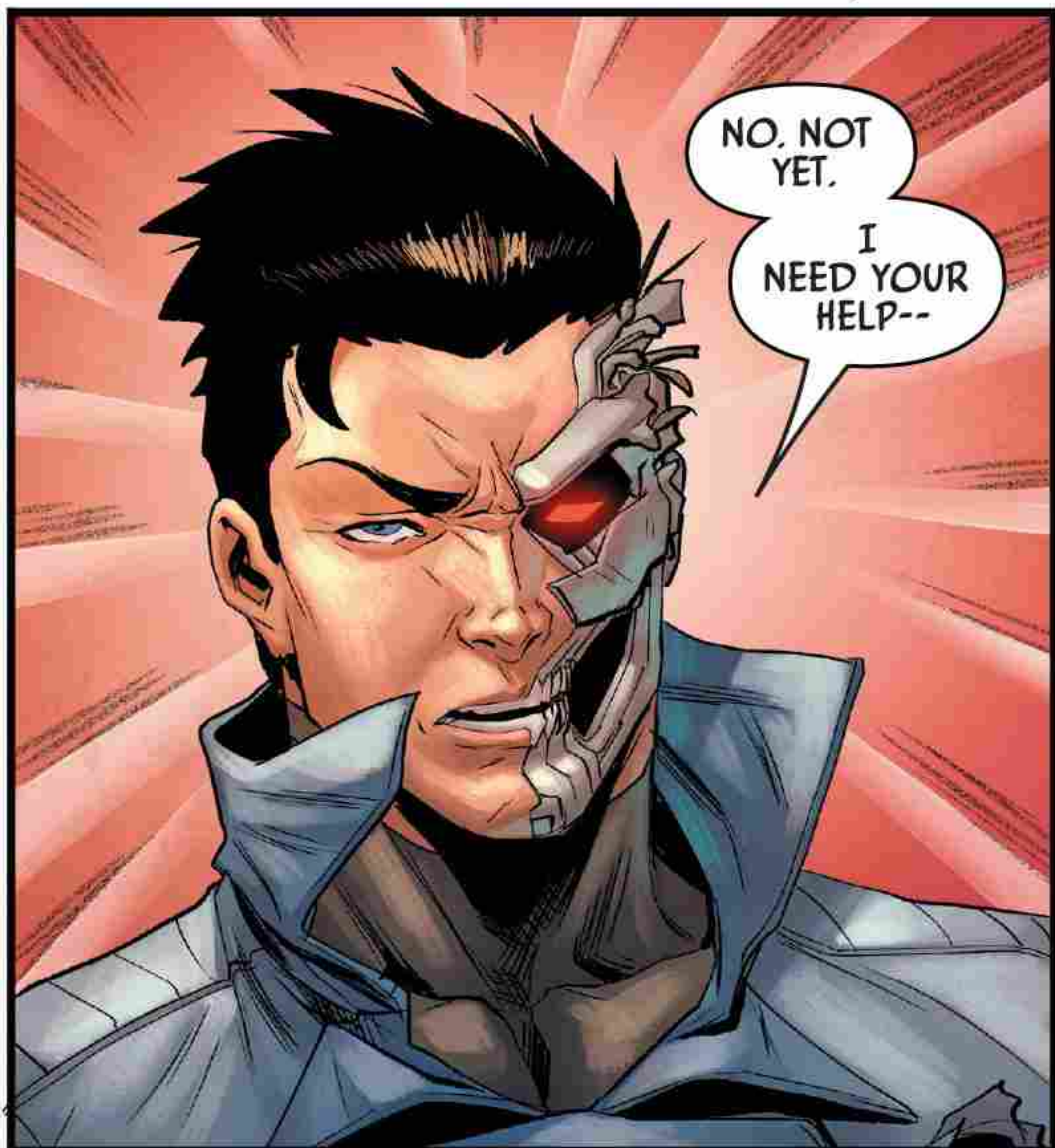
THOSE ARE YOUR
ETCHINGS. YOU MADE THEM
WHEN YOU WERE LOSING
YOUR MEMORY.

NOT-FRIEND
BOSSK THREW
THEM AWAY WHEN
HE LEFT US
HERE.



I RECOGNIZE
MOST OF THEM...
BUT WHO IS
THIS?

WAIT...



It's Coming for the Metal...

AUGUST:

~~DARK DROIDS 1~~
~~STAR WARS 37~~
~~DARTH VADER 37~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 35~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 37~~

SEPTEMBER:

~~STAR WARS 38~~
~~DARK DROIDS 2~~
~~D SQUAD 1~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 38~~
~~DARTH VADER 38~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 36~~

OCTOBER:

~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 39~~
~~DARTH VADER 39~~
~~DARK DROIDS 3~~
~~STAR WARS 39~~
~~D SQUAD 2~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 37~~

NOVEMBER:

~~STAR WARS 40~~
~~DARTH VADER 40~~
~~DARK DROIDS 4~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 38~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 40~~
~~D SQUAD 3~~

DECEMBER:

~~D SQUAD 4~~
~~DARK DROIDS 5~~
~~STAR WARS 41~~
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 41~~
~~DARTH VADER 41~~
~~DOCTOR APHRA 39~~

NEXT

BOUNTY HUNTERS 42



STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/ or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. WWW.MARVEL.COM